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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Volume XIV

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Number 11

New Titles for Children and Young People

R Allan, Mabel Esther. Catrin in Wales. Vanguard, 1961. 204p. \$3.
7-9

In the same general pattern as the author's other books about girls who reach a turning point in their lives while away on holiday in another country. The story of Catrin, which she herself tells, is in somewhat lower key than that of previous books; Catrin has no serious problem to solve. Visiting an aunt who becomes ill, Catrin is left to take over her aunt's job as caretaker of an old Priory. She becomes enchanted with country living, interested in old churches, and surprised by the pleasures of being part of a small community. The flavor of Welsh speech and the atmosphere of the countryside are most convincingly drawn. A pleasant and realistic story. Catrin is eighteen, and quite responsible for her age; it is unfortunate that the book jacket describes her as sixteen, since she is alone on a hiking trip and alone at the Priory.

R American Heritage Magazine. Indians of the Plains; by the editors of American Heritage; narrative by Eugene Rachlis in consultation with John C. Ewers. American Heritage, 1960. 153p. Illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series) Trade ed. \$3.50; Cloth ed. \$5.05.
6-

A handsome and authoritative book, profusely illustrated with maps, drawings, and reproductions of old prints. A description is first given of the Indian culture of prehistoric times—as much as can be determined. The book then discusses in detail the aspects of Plains Indians life: the adoption of the horse, the rituals, habits in hunting and in recreation, the role of the squaw, the wars with the encroaching white men. An index, a bibliography, and a source of credits for the illustrations are appended. Useful also as a supplementary curricular source of information for fifth grade students.

Ad Anglund, Joan Walsh. Cowboy and His Friend. Harcourt, 1961. 27p. illus.
3-6 \$1.95.
yrs.

The same appealing figure that was depicted in imaginative play in The Brave Cowboy, again pictured in one color while the imaginary friend is shown in another color. The friend is a large and amiable bear. No dialogue, just the bear going everywhere with the little cowboy. Not as interesting as the previous book, because there is so much less action in the imaginary episodes, but there is, despite the static quality, a reassuring gentleness in the quiet, stalwart companion.

R Asbjørnsen, Peter Christen. Norwegian Folk Tales; from the collection of
5-7 Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe; tr. by Pat Shaw Iversen and Carl Norman; illus. by Erik Werenskiöld and Theodor Kittelsen. Viking,

1961. 188p. \$5.

Thirty-five tales translated in a style that preserves the folk flavor; a handsome book with effective illustrations in black and white. Some of the stories are versions of those adapted by Thorne-Thomsen in East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon, which is more suitable for younger children. This translation is more suitable as a source for storytelling than for independent reading.

R Bagley, J. J. Life in Medieval England. Putnam, 1960. 175p. illus. \$3.50.
8-

An excellent source of information, well-organized if heavy in style; reading lists are appended at the end of each section, illustrations are well-placed, captioned, and instructive, and an extensive index is provided. The text is divided into sections on castle and court, manor house and peasant's cottage, street and market place, monastery and friary, school and university, scientists and theologians, technologists and craftsmen, and decay and transition. The book gives a comprehensive picture of medieval England, but much of the material it includes pertains to the whole western European feudal society.

M Baker, Elizabeth (Gillette). Fire in the Wind; illus. by Robert MacLean. Houghton, 5-7 1961. 244p. \$3.

Set in Chicago in 1871, with the two concluding chapters being about the Chicago fire. The protagonist is Jeff, a boy of eleven who becomes involved in tracking down the thief who has stolen valuable papers and a valuable horse from a prominent citizen. Jeff, sure that his friend (who is suspected) is not the culprit, goes off on his own in dangerous circumstances, picking up odd jobs while he is tracking down the slick "Colonel" who is the real criminal. A rather contrived plot, with much of the interest centered on period details that are obtrusive. Although the writing tends to bog down in such details, it is they that are the most interesting part of the book, giving a flavor of the vitality and pace of the fast-growing city.

R Beatty, Jerome. Matthew Looney's Voyage to the Earth; illus. by Gahan Wilson. 4-6 Scott, 1961. 132p. \$2.75.

An amusing variant on juvenile space fiction. Matthew earns his chance to go as cabin boy on a trip to outer space, one of the purposes of the expedition being to explore the remote possibility that there is life on earth. As all moon dwellers like Matthew know, earth has a poisonous atmosphere of oxygen, and the moonship comes back to report no living creatures at their base, the South Pole. However, our boy proves in court that his smuggled pet has survived not only the atmosphere, but the peculiar substance called "water." Mr. Beatty writes entertainingly of the moon people, conceiving enough details of a different culture to lend interest, but with enough similarity to earth dwellers for identification. There is a minor weakness in one of the comic characters, who sounds like someone out of the Katzenjammer Kids: "... we come back with gepieces ... we solve the gepuzzle ..." Illustrations are in cartoon style.

R Behn, Harry. Roderick; illus. by Mel Silverman. Harcourt, 1961. 63p. \$2.75.
5-6

The story of Roderick, a crow who was, in a gentle way, a non-conformist. Roderick was a dreamer, and the militant leader of the crow flock, Mr. Cawsby, had to scold the young bird frequently. The other crows were impressed by Roderick's superior auditory sense, and when he used his ability to find a new home for the tribe, Roderick was proposed as the new chief. But he was too modest, saying that he was not the shouter type, he was a listener; and he was content in the knowledge that he had found a wonderful new home for his tribe. A nice writing style, with nuances that are probably too sophisticated for the younger child who would be attracted by the subject. For the reading level indicated, it will probably be necessary to have the

book introduced by the librarian.

Ad Benedict, Dorothy Potter. Pagan the Black. illus. by John Groth. Pantheon, 1960.
5-7 189p. \$3.

A story about a boy and a horse, moving despite the overtones of melodrama and sentimentality. Sandy could manage his beautiful horse, Pagan, but nobody else could; when Sandy's sister was threatened by a criminal, the horse trampled the man to death. A trial vindicated Pagan and made Sandy proud of his beloved horse. Good writing style; the over-all plot of the book is trite (the mad ride to a Ranger station to save the life of the cowboy who had saved Sandy from a mountain lion) but most of the incidents are realistic; the characters are real and likable despite the introduction of a few stereotypes.

Ad Best, Herbert. Desmond's First Case; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Viking, 1961.
4-6 96p. \$2.50.

A humorous story about a remarkable dog and his boy, Gus, who solve a mystery together; not a tall tale, but exaggerated in style, the description of Desmond's mental processes is most entertaining and almost believable. There is slight tendency to "cuteness" in the emphasis on dog-owns-boy, but the evolution of action is, except for the very end of the book, quite realistic. Gus and Desmond track down their friend Mr. Titus, a retired banker who is missing, and find that he is unaware of being thought missing—he had just gone away to work on an invention. When Mr. Titus shows up with his invention—a lawnmower that travels without needing a guiding hand—both Gus and Desmond take turns operating the contraption. The ending, in which Desmond is operating the machine and being interviewed by a television newsman, gets heavily nonsensical.

NR Beyer, Audrey White. The Sapphire Pendant; illus. by Robin Jacques. Knopf,
8-10 1961. 178p. \$2.95.

A patterned period story, much like the formula romances of Georgette Heyer. Elizabeth, orphaned and sixteen, resents the fact her father's estate has passed to her cousin and guardian, Pierre. Elizabeth runs away, suspecting that Pierre is working for France and Napoleon and is a traitor to England. She becomes involved in France as a spy (she speaks perfect French) and finds that Pierre is spying for England also when he saves her life. Back in England, she realizes that she loves noble, handsome, kind Pierre; at a ball Pierre gives for Elizabeth, he announces his love for her rather than the haughty, wealthy Miss Stanhope (shades of Bronte) of whom Elizabeth had been jealous. Pedestrian style of writing and quite stereotypical historical-romance characters.

R Blough, Glenn Orlando. Discovering Dinosaurs; pictures by Gustav Schrotter.
3-4 Whittlesey House, 1960. 48p. \$2.50.

The simplicity of the text, the appropriate use of type-size and the limitation of scope give this book qualities that make it valuable in a collection, despite the fact there are many good books on the topic. Mr. Blough uses familiar terms to make comparisons: house size, automobile length, etc. The text describes several kinds of dinosaurs, making clear the fact there were similarities and differences, and describes the work of the paleontologist in finding, assembling, and identifying fossil remains. The final section discusses museums, indicating the kind of information that may be obtained from the labelling of exhibits. A list of some museums with fossil reptile collections is appended, and the book concludes with a brief list (with phonetic pronunciation) of the dinosaurs referred to in the text.

NR Brown, Margaret Wise. Four Fur Feet; with pictures by Remy Charlip. Scott,
4-6 1961. 44p. \$3.
yrs.

An animal (never shown except for his four fur feet) goes about the world in this read-aloud picture book. He walks along the river, and he walks by the railroad; as he walks about on his four fur feet, the experience is conveyed in a refrain that reads like a folk-song lyric. For example, "Then he walked into the country on his four fur feet, his four feet, his four fur feet. He walked into the country on his four fur feet and heard the cows go moo-O." The illustrations, highly stylized and detailed, have a sophisticated polish that is less likely to appeal to children than it does to adults. They may also produce some misconceptions about environmental concepts, since some are upside down, some out of scale, and others show the four fur feet apparently walking on the sky or on water.

Ad Buckley, Helen E. Grandmother and I; pictures by Paul Galdone. Lothrop, 1961.
2-4 23p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.
yrs.

A slight book, but gentle in tone and with no pretensions about being more than the expression of an emotion. The theme of the book is that grandmother's lap is the place for comfort; mother's lap is good when you need your shoes put on, but grandmother's lap is the best place when you have measles . . . father's lap is good when you want to do tricks, but grandmother's lap is the place to be when the cat's been gone for two days. A pleasant relationship is portrayed, but the book doesn't apply to every child. Not all small children have this kind of relationship, either because grandmother isn't on the scene or because it is mother's lap that is the place to be when you have measles. The illustrations are pleasant, realistic and sympathetic but not sentimental.

Ad Buehr, Walter. Keeping Time; written and illus. by Walter Buehr. Putnam, 1960.
5-7 94p. \$3.

The text is divided into chapters on the calendar, on measuring hours—including time zones and star time, on mechanical timepieces, on instruments that measure nautical time, on clocks, and on watches. Good writing style, with passages that have interesting narrative appeal, such as the story of John Harrison's long struggle to prove the worth of his chronometer. There are also passages more difficult than the general level of the book: for example, the two-page explanation of the calculation of local star time based on longitudinal position.

R Buehr, Walter. The World of Marco Polo; written and illus. by Walter Buehr.
5-8 Putnam, 1961. 91p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.81 net.

An unromanticized account of the visits of the Polo family to the empire of Kubla Kahn; there is so much that is exotic and luxurious in the scenes described that the straightforward writing serves only to emphasize these qualities. Mr. Buehr devotes the first forty pages to an account of the commercial ventures of the older Polos that led them to Asia and back to Venice where young Marco was growing up. The remainder of the book is devoted to the longer second sojourn in Cathay, to Marco Polo's return to Italy and to his remaining years. The writing is a bit heavy in style, but the subject interest more than compensates for this. A brief index is appended.

Ad Caldwell, John Cope. Let's Visit the West Indies. Day, 1960. 96p. illus. \$2.95.
5-7

A useful introduction to a fascinating part of the world; while Mr. Caldwell gives a great deal of information in a pleasantly straightforward style, he can but explore superficially the history, geography, industry, etc. of the many islands. Because there are so many islands—so different, so colorful—the reader is overwhelmed with facts; the author has given, under these circumstances, as good a survey as could be made in a book of this length. A map and a brief index are included; photographs are good.

R Cavanna, Betty. Lucho of Peru; photographs by George Russell Harrison. Watts,

4-7 1961. 61p. (Around the World Today Books) \$3.50.

An excellent combination of narrative, photograph, and fact. The author has created, with that minimum of effort that denotes craftsmanship, a very real and quite individual child. Lucho, age twelve, is earning good money in the brickyard of his small village; he goes to market at Cuzco, but the pet he wants costs too much money. After a visit to Macho Picchu with his class, the boy is newly aware of the Inca heritage, and donates his savings (having decided previously not to contribute money to people he has never seen) to a fund for a town nearby that has suffered earthquake damage. Facts about Peruvian history, and a picture of life in Peru today, are woven unobtrusively into the story.

Ad Chalmers, Mary. Mr. Cat's Wonderful Surprise; story and pictures by Mary
3-5 Chalmers. Harper, 1961. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.
yrs.

A slight book for reading aloud, illustrated by the author's familiar cat pictures—gentle and sentimental. The Cat children have been watching other animal families go off on picnics, and are delighted when Mr. Cat produces, on their own picnic, a rowboat that he has been secretly making. The sons fall overboard and learn a lesson about sitting still in boats. The family relationships are pleasantly presented and the picnic theme will appeal to young listeners, but the story is weak and the cats have nothing in their behavior or appearance that impinges on the story; children could, in fact, identify more easily with an identical story about human children.

M Colver, Anne. Nobody's Birthday; illus. by Marvin Bileck. Knopf, 1961. 42p.
3-4 \$2.75.

A rather precious story about a Complete Birthday that didn't have an owner. Illustrations, sentimental and intricate in baroque black-and-white, are well-suited to the whimsical and convoluted writing style. "Once there was a birthday on our street . . ." the book begins; and the children tried to find out to whom the birthday belonged: there were three kinds of ice-cream (where, the author does not say), presents gaily wrapped, a cake, balloons, and snappers. The children asked the Whistling Mailman and the Smiling Policeman and the Smoking Fireman, and they finally found the Old Man—and it was his last birthday. So they brought it to him, and all the presents were just right for him; a rocking chair and sticks to whittle and a new sunflower seed. Except for the perennial appeal of birthdays as a subject and for the community feeling that is peripheral in the story, the book has little to offer. It is not convincing fantasy, it is not realism, and it does not successfully bridge the gap between the two.

M Cutler, Katherine N. The Beginning Gardener. Barrows, 1961. 173p. illus.
5-7 \$2.95.

Although this book gives information that is useful to the beginner, it fails to give enough instruction in some areas and gives, on the other hand some material that seems unnecessary. For example, the chapter on planning a flower garden does not even make so basic a suggestion as putting taller plants at the back of the bed, although the diagram suggests flowers that are (to one who is familiar with the plants) set this way. Some of the diagrams are confusingly interpolated in the text—the page facing the diagram being all explanatory print. More information is to be gained from Kirkus' The First Book of Gardening (Watts, 1956). Some of the sections on types of gardens are only two pages long. An appendix discusses such topics as adult guidance, and a garden information center seems to be directed to the adult reader.

R De Angeli, Marguerite (Lofft). Skippack School. Doubleday, 1961. 92p. illus.
4-5 \$2.95.

First published in 1939, a pleasant reconstruction of boyhood in a Mennonite community near Philadelphia in the beginning of the 18th century. Eli, just settled with his family in the new land, likes everything about their new life except school. The gentleness and patience of his schoolmaster (the one figure in the story based on an historical character) wins the boy to an interest in learning. Good as a family story as well as for its value as a period piece. Dialogue that adds a delightful Pennsylvania Dutch flavor helps make a distinctive story.

Ad Dickson, Gordon R. Secret Under the Sea; illus. by Jo Ann Stover. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1960. 121p. \$2.95.

A good junior science fiction novel, set in the year 2013 at an underwater research station. Robby, whose father is a marine biologist, goes off to leave the boy in charge of the station with a government agent, Mr. Lilibulero, and Robby's intelligent trained dolphin. Together the two outwit a gang of Vandals (the criminals of the twenty-first century) and escape from a killer whale that is fighting a Martian sea badger. The story gets a bit sticky toward the end, especially the combat scene with twenty-three Vandals being bested by a boy, a man, and a dolphin. The whole conception of the book is interesting, however, and the details of the research station and the equipment of the future are convincingly told.

NR Donovan, John. The Little Orange Book; illus. by Mauro Caputo. Morrow, 1961. 3-5 30p. \$2.

yrs.
A small book with the slightest of plots. Two fat rabbits are chased by a wolf and get thin; they decide to face the wolf, who goes off to chase ducks, and they can then rest, eat again, and get as fat as they were formerly. No humor, no conclusion in this story; the behavior of the animals is unreal . . . and nothing happens. Cited on the book jacket as a "story within a story," the text has only a first and last page showing a child reading to bear out this statement.

NR Doughtie, Charles W. High Henry; the cowboy who was too tall to ride a horse; 3-4 illus. by Don Gregg. Dodd, 1960. 31p. \$3.

A tall tale that combines a talking giraffe, an outsize cowboy, and a satire on the patterned Western, having elements of humor, but overdrawn even as a nonsense story. High Henry had legs so long he couldn't ride a horse, so it was a great day for him when he found Effie, a giraffe who had run away from a circus because she loved the West. Together they outwitted the band of desperadoes who had held up the stage coach—which had its proper quota of gold as well as a pretty girl to whom High Henry was a hero. Cartoon type illustrations have, despite their pedestrian calibre, some humor. The format is too juvenile for the child who can read the text independently, and the burlesque quality will be lost on the younger child to whom the book might be read aloud.

M Dow, Emily R. Of Parties and Petticoats; A World of Wonderful Things for 7-9 Girls in Their Teens. Barrows, 1960. 205p. illus. \$2.95.

For the teen-age girl, advice on a wide range of subjects with rather superficial treatment of most topics. Although most of the information and suggestions are common sense, there is little material in any one area, and most of the information is available in other books that give more extensive coverage. Some of the subjects included are "Keeping Busy at Home," "Dates and Dating," "Health, Figures, and Glamour," "Make Your Own Vacation Job," "Vacation Sports—Your Part in Them," "To School or Not To School," and "Teen Travel." An index is appended.

Ad Fairservis, Walter A. India; illus. by Richard M. Powers. World, 1961. 127p. 7- \$3.50.

Interesting material, and adequately presented, but not as well organized as are the texts of other volumes in this series of books about major cultures of the world. There is a heavy emphasis on religions, caste, superstitions, and philosophy; the writing style throughout is turgid with detail. The text moves from village life to a section on gods and heroes, back to ancient India, then to the Buddha and Buddhist concepts, concluding with two chapters on India's history from 632 A.D. on. A reading list, chronological chart, and index are appended.

R Felton, Harold W. The World's Most Truthful Man; Tall Tales Told by Ed
6- Grant in Maine; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Dodd, 1961. 150p. \$3.
A delightful compilation of tall tales as told by a delightful—and real—person. Ed Grant's stories have been collected, as the author explains in his preface, from retellings by his friends and family. The tales are presented in a framework of talk between Ed Grant and his listeners; although there is a note of vaudeville "straight-man" to the dialogue that precedes them, the stories are wonderful fun and they are written by Mr. Felton with a vivacity and relish that is superbly right for this genre. The illustrations, line drawings in black and white, are strong in technique and have a sturdy humor.

M Fisher, Aileen Lucia. United Nations Plays and Programs; by Aileen Fisher
6-8 and Olive Rabe; rev. ed. Plays, Inc., 1961. 285p. \$4.
A collection of plays, programs, poems for recitation, group readings, and songs about the United Nations, revised from the 1954 edition. Three selections are comprised in a section entitled "Prayers and Toasts" and an appended section gives brief production notes for thirteen plays. The material to be used for singing or recitation is of very poor quality; the plays are heavily purposeful. Some of the plays may be useful as program material for assemblies or ceremonies on United Nations Day.

R Floethe, Louise Lee. Triangle X; pictures by Richard Floethe. Harper, 1960.
3-4 95p. \$2.
Jeff and his parents go west for the summer, and the boy—nervous at first—comes to love the life on a Wyoming dude ranch. He goes on a pack trip and rides in a children's race at a rodeo for visitors. A very nicely written story: there is pace without contrivance, a limitation of scene and character that emphasizes the compact quality of ranch life, and some evocative writing about the outdoors.

NR Gardner, Richard M. Be on TV; illus. by the author. Day, 1960. 160p. \$3.50.
6-8
There is a substantial amount of information in this book, but it is obscured by extraneous writing; in other parts of the book, coverage is superficial. Some of the terminology is difficult; the opening passages are appropriate for quite young children: "Suggest a tour to your Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Brownie or Cub Scout Group. Maybe your teacher will arrange a tour for your whole class at school." The diagrams are confusing, and some of the instructions for making facsimile equipment have no diagrams. The book is divided into sections entitled "Your TV Tour," "Your TV Career," and "Your TV Appearance"; the third section gives half a page each to working in continuity or as a performer. A glossary and an index are appended, as are a list of stations that have programs featuring young people, and a reading list. The factual material in the text is easily available in pamphlets and encyclopedia articles.

R Goudey, Alice E. The Day We Saw the Sun Come Up; illus. by Adrienne Adams.
K-2 Scribner, 1961. 30p. \$2.95.
Two children rise before dawn and see the sun come up for the first time in their lives . . . then they note through the day how their shadows change as the sun moves.

At dusk their mother explains night and day, and the movement of the earth. The prose is simple and childlike, the explanations are lucid and accurate, yet there is a lyric quality to the writing. The illustrations are soft in color and quality; the scenes at sunrise and sunset are especially lovely, with delicate nuances of tone.

Ad Greenhood, David. Watch the Tides; illus. by Jane Castle. Holiday House, 1961. 2-4 36p. \$2.75.

Chiefly a description of the contrasting appearance between high and low tides, with an introduction to terminology; i.e., "high tide," "flood tide," and "high water" mean the same thing. There is a brief discussion of the action of water on stones, and a last section explains the causation of tidal motion by lunar pull. Both text and illustrations will be more comprehensible to the child who has seen the phenomenon than to one who has not, especially since the drawings show—for example—a pier at high tide and the same pier at low tide separated by several pages. The text is brief and the sentences short, but the saturation of unfamiliar and difficult words is high.

Ad Grimm, Jakob Ludwig Karl. Rapunzel; with pictures by Felix Hoffmann. Harcourt, 1961. 3-5 36p. \$3.75.

First published in Sweden in 1949, an oversize picture book version of a favorite tale. The illustrations are in Hoffmann's usual muted pastel tones, gentle and lovely in detail; it is unfortunate that in a tale wherein the particular object is so important, there should be a discrepancy: Rapunzel's hair, used as a ladder, is three times as long in one illustration as it is in another. Like most classic fairy tales, suitable for reading aloud to younger children than those who can read it independently.

R Hoke, Helen L., comp. Nurses, Nurses, Nurses. Watts, 1961. 242p. (Terrific 7-10 Triple Title Series) \$2.95.

A collection that comprises several poems and a dozen stories about nurses, taken from previously published books or magazines. Some of the material is biographical but most of the selections are fictional, and the quality of the writing ranges from adequate to very good; some of the excerpts are from good junior novels such as Hospital Zone and Sue Barton, Student Nurse.

SpC Ingelow, Jean. To the Land of Fair Delight; Three Victorian Tales of the Imagination; by Jean Ingelow, G. E. Farrow and George MacDonald; introduced by Noel Streatfeild; illus. by the original artists. Watts, 1960. 583p. \$4.95.

Three fanciful tales, of which the classic At the Back of the North Wind is the best. Mopsa the Fairy is, in dialogue and narrative passages both, more obviously Victorian than the other two tales: detailed, sentimental, and quaint. The Little Panjandrum's Dodo has elements of sophistication and humor lacking in the other stories, and is less typical of the genre. There seems little purpose in combining the three stories in one volume, unless the book is to be used in a collection of historical children's literature.

R Jackson, David. The Wonderful World of Engineering. Garden City, 1961. 91p. 6-9 illus. \$2.95.

A fine addition to an excellent series; this volume is oversize, but the many illustrations are more restrained (in both color and arrangement) than others in the series. Topics covered are buildings, roads and tunnels, bridges, harbors and canals, dams and hydroelectric plants. The text is heavier in style and more difficult in vocabulary level than Bradley's Engineers Did It! (Lippincott, 1958); it makes no mention of lighthouse construction, but it gives a great deal of background information and provides many diagrams not given in the Bradley book. An index is appended.

R Kaufmann, Herbert. Adventure in the Desert. Obolensky, 1961. 218p. illus. 9- \$2.95

An unusual novel, previously published in Germany in 1958 and based on a 2,000-mile trek made by the author. Mr. Kaufmann lived with the people of whom he writes, the Tuareg tribe which has kept the ancient customs in a day when the truck and the airplane have invaded the desert. Long and complicated as the book is, it is so evocative, and so precise in its construction of a culture, that it is quite absorbing. The characters are completely convincing, the plot has both unity and sustained momentum. A young prince, Ajor, emerges as a leader of his people and marries a lovely girl who pines for the roving outlaw, Mid-e-mid; in a realistic ending, the arranged marriage takes place, the bride adjusts, the rover goes off to his desert wanderings unhappy but accepting his loss.

NR Kepes, Juliet. Frogs Merry. Pantheon Books, 1961. 28p. illus. \$2.95.

3-5
yrs.

Four little eggs grow up into four merry little frogs, playing about happily until winter comes, when they all go into the deep, warm mud to sleep until spring. The story is slight: the first few pages are quite realistic as they follow the evolution from egg to frog, but the remainder of the text is, in contrast, fanciful. The illustrations are in quiet blues and green, attractive separately, but quite repetitive.

NR Lancaster, Clay. The Periwinkle Steamboat; written and illus. by Clay Lancaster. Viking, 1961. 56p. \$2.50.

An elaborate fantasy about a small boy who, with several talking animals, goes off for a trip on a magic steam-boat that can move through the air as well as in the water. The quaint captain takes Timmy to visit in several strange places: a tree house, a castle inhabited by a thin woman in a long black gown (absolutely Charles Addams), and to houses built in the shapes of steamboats, flowers, and elephants, and back safely home. Strained writing style, leaning heavily on odd names. For example, the elephantine domicile is inhabited by the Potentate of Poonlay Poo, in Pachyderm Palace where he lounges on an ottoman, smoking a hookah and wearing a turban.

M Lauber, Patricia. Champ; Gallant Collie; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Random House, 2-4 1960. 61p. (Easy to Read Books) \$1.95.

A fairly melodramatic story for the primary level, with routine plot about an animal that is considered worthless until he performs an heroic act. Champ's owner was ready to give the collie away, since he didn't do a good job of herding sheep and was, in his playfulness, a nuisance. Left behind because of rising flood waters, Champ herded sheep to safety, responding to "the blood of many loyal sheep dogs . . . blood that stirred now." The dog also saved the sheep and a horse by fighting and killing a cougar; the book ends with the family returning (fortunately, with a doctor in the car) to find the noble animal lying dangerously wounded. Good style, poor plot; the writing has pace and the story will probably be enjoyed, despite its weaknesses, by those beginning readers who like dog stories.

R Lexau, Joan. Olaf Reads. Illus. by Harvey Weiss. Dial, 1961. 53p. \$2.75.
1-2

For beginning independent readers, and a delightful picture book to read aloud; with engaging illustrations and with one of the funniest conversations ever written between a small boy and his mother. In three brief episodes, Olaf's troubles are described. He reads, all right, but not well enough; he doesn't understand the sign in the library, and has to be urged to be quiet; he doesn't think he is doing anything wrong when he pulls—the sign says "Pull"—and the school has an unplanned fire drill.

R Liberty, Gene. The First Book of Tools; The Story of the 12 Tools of Man; pictures by Richard Mayhew. Watts, 1960. 62p. \$1.95.
5-8

A very good survey of the development of tools from the time of the cavemen to today, although the organization of material is not wholly chronological, as it is in Adler's Tools in Your Life (Day, 1956) which is more comprehensive and stresses sociological causes and effects. Here there is more emphasis on familiar tools and their application, with an overview at the end of the book that traces improvements from the Old Stone Age on. The author explains the six basic machines (he does not refer to them as tools, oddly enough, although by his own definition these are tools rather than machines) and divides all tools into twelve groups based on their function. The divisions are tools for pounding, smooth-edged cutting, toothed cutting, piercing, surface scraping, shearing, covering, joining, gripping, moving or lifting, rotating and gathering. There are mathematical problems introduced into the text that are not really necessary; these relate to work load, force, mechanical advantage, etc. The book should prove useful as an addition to Adler and other books on the topic because of the organization; diagrams are profuse and clear, and the index is comprehensive. The format is inappropriately juvenile for the difficulty of vocabulary and the sophistication of the content.

R Lobsenz, Norman. The First Book of Ghana; illus. with photographs. Watts, 1960. 4-6 62p. \$1.95.

A good introductory overview, with excellent photographs, a location map, and a brief index. Mr. Lobsenz gives the history of the exploration and exploitation of the Gold Coast region that ended in 1957 when the small country, released from British rule, became an independent nation. The text is organized well, being divided into such topics as geography, peoples, food, crafts, mineral resources, etc. The writing is succinct, coverage is good, and the book has enlivening details based on firsthand observation.

Ad Loder, Dorothy. The Key to Philadelphia. Lippincott, 1960. 120p. illus. \$2.75. 4-6

Like others in the series, an overview that includes municipal history, famous citizens, places of interest, and unusual institutions or celebrations. Photographs are good; the text is prefaced by a map and followed by a brief index. The writing style is a bit solid and, as with several other volumes in the series, the book is probably of more interest to the resident of or visitor to Philadelphia than to the general reader.

M McGovern, Ann. Why It's a Holiday; illus. by Dagmar Wilson. Random House, 2-3 1960. 64p. (Easy to Read Books) \$1.95.

Short sentences and few difficult words, pedestrian illustrations; illustrations are rather confusing in those cases where several scenes run together on a page, as they do in the section on New Year's Day, where a medieval and a modern scene look as though they might be one picture. Chiefly devoted to legal holidays, with one section for special religious holidays and another called "Other special days"; Christmas is, of course, listed as a legal holiday, but there may well be non-Christian religious groups who will disagree with the statement that "Christmas is the best holiday of the year. For it means something special all over the world." Some of the days in which children have great interest, such as Hallowe'en or Valentine's Day, are given just a few sentences, whereas Election Day and Veteran's Day are several times that length.

SpR Mayne, William. The Blue Boat; illus. by Geraldine Spence. Dutton, 1960. 173p. 4-6 \$2.95.

An English story, quite unlike the author's Swarm in May; here there is little humor and little pace, but the creation of a sustained mood of imaginative play. Two small brothers, whose parents are in Africa, spend their vacation days with a friend of their mother's; all of their time is given to roaming about outdoors alone, deeply involved in pretending. Three men enter into the game with them, revealing themselves only at the end of the book as two circus performers and a cousin; to the boys they have been a goblin, a giant, and an alchemist. Although this logical explanation is given, it weakens the book slightly to have adults so

elaborately and so completely involved; it would perhaps be more credible if the reader were to know why the men had the time to play along with two children day after day. The feeling of fantasy is created although there is no fantasy save in the minds of the two boys. Mr. Mayne has portrayed the children with great insight; the varying reactions of the two to the same ideas, and the way in which the boys react to each other, are most perceptively explored. The slow, quiet, detailed writing with all its nuance will probably be most appreciated by the unusual reader.

R Meredith, Nicolette. King of the Kerry Fair; woodcuts by Nonny Hogrogian. 4-6 Crowell, 1960. 57p. \$2.50.

A brief and pithy Irish tale with the quality of folk literature, both narration and dialogue having the authentic lilt and color of Irish speech. Paddy had groomed his goat to be the King of Puck Fair, but the beautiful black goat was stolen. Disconsolate, Paddy went to the fair with a white goat he had found; strangely enough, the white goat acted as tame and loving as had his old pet. When the time for judging came, it was discovered that the white goat had the same unusual mark as the black goat had had; then Paddy wasn't so sure that all his scoffing at the Wee Folk had been justified. Humor, flavor, and atmosphere are in the writing; the illustrations are not outstanding, but are attractive.

M Moore, Mary Furlong. The Baby-Sitter's Storybook; selected and edited by all Mary Furlong Moore and Muriel Fuller. Longmans, 1960. 180p. \$2.95. ages

A collection of over 100 rhymes, riddles, and stories to be used in entertaining small charges. The text is divided into material appropriate for children ages 1-4, ages 4-6, ages 6-9, and a section of riddles for children of all ages. A brief preface suggests some ways of using the book, but this is so slight as to be minimal. The material is variable in quality, much of it is available elsewhere, and the last section (riddles) is only four pages long. Since the spread of use is so wide, it is doubtful whether there is always an advantage to using such a collection, since most families have reading matter that is appropriate for the ages of the children in that home.

Ad Nash, Ogden, comp. Everybody Ought to Know; verses selected and introduced 5-9 by Ogden Nash; illus. by Rose Shirvanian. Lippincott, 1961. 186p. \$3.75. An anthology that contains a wide selection of the author's favorites; not unusual except for some few poems that are so bad they are good—of the conventional village-paper-mawkish variety. The other poems range from the simplest four-line jingles (author unknown) that have appealed to Mr. Nash to poetry (or excerpts from poems) by great writers. A pleasant collection for browsing, but no more; the lack of organization into subjects or appropriate age divisions limits use. Indexed separately by authors, titles, and first lines.

M Norman, Gertrude. A Man Named Columbus; illus. by James Caraway. Putnam, 1960. 41p. \$2.

A biography for beginning readers, with controlled vocabulary, short sentences, and large type. The writing style is rather limp, and the book is illustrated with pedestrian pictures in a blurred technique. Not as useful as Judson's Christopher Columbus (Follett, 1960) written for the same reading level and containing a double-page map that charts the voyage of 1492-1493.

NR Olgin, Joseph. Thomas Jefferson; Champion of the People; illus. by Eleanor 3-5 Mill. Houghton, 1960. 192p. (Piper Books) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.35.

A biography that is so poor in writing style that it is vitiated as a source of information. The text covers the span of Jefferson's life from birth to death, with rather de-

tailed treatment of the childhood years. The author's attitude toward the biographee and toward his father is adulatory, and his adjectives (for example, on the physical strength of Peter Jefferson) recurrent. The book has an unpleasant stereotype: the Negro child who plays with small Tom is superstitious, stammering, and frightened at the suggestion of digging in an Indian mound. The writing also has blandly facile comments: for example, Jefferson meets Patrick Henry at a party when they are both young men, and says, "I like that Patrick Henry. I've a feeling I'll get to know him better later on."

M Orbach, Ruth. Hannah the Helper; illus. by Judith Shuman Roth. Whitman, 4-6 1961. 27p. \$2.25.
yrs.

A read-aloud book with a good concept that is weakened by the treatment. Hannah is a rabbit who comes to help out so that Mother Rabbit has time to sew, visit a sick friend, buy a child's birthday present, and go to a school meeting. Hannah is industrious and cheerful; the little rabbits love her. The idea that household help should have status is excellent, and the author has made clear how much Hannah's contribution means to family achievement. However, the illustrations are so sentimental that they make the text more sentimental; the Helper—full-skirted, mop-capped—is not like most of the household help children might recognize, and it is possible that the social significance might be less elusive were the characters people rather than dress-up animals.

NR Paschal, Nancy. Song of the Heart. Westminster, 1961. 218p. \$2.95.
7-9

A junior novel about a girl who had been adopted, and of whom her young foster-sister was jealous. Lonna was twenty-one, in her last year of college and hoping for a musical career. During the organization of an amateur show, she met Stanley, the eligible son of wealthy socialites, who immediately fell in love with her. Spurned by his snobbish parents when her sister revealed that she was adopted, Lonna tracked down her relatives. Deciding that she was acceptable, the socialite parents relented; an elderly woman proposed to subsidize a year of study in New York, and Stanley took a New York job so that they could be married immediately. Pedestrian writing and rather predictable plot development, mitigated only slightly by the good relationship between Lonna and her adoptive parents.

R Podendorf, Illa. 101 Science Experiments; illus. by Robert Borja. Childrens, 3-5 1960. 157p. \$4.50.

An oversize book, with a text that is simple and lucid, and with large, clear illustrations that supplement the explanations admirably. The book is divided into experiments about such topics as air, water, sound, magnets, and plants. The author gives the user of the book an opportunity to make deductions from observation, and also gives a recapitulation of the reasons for experimental results. Each section ends with a summary of the facts that have emerged from the experiments; an index of experiments is appended, as is a list of sources for obtaining science materials.

R Polland, Madeleine A. Children of the Red King; illus. by Annette Macarthur-5-7 Onslow. Holt, 1961. 159p. \$3.

An absorbing story of the Norman Conquest, and of the two children of the Irish King who resisted the forces of King John. Princess Grania and her small brother Fergus, heir to the Irish throne, spent several years in captivity; their captor and his wife were kind and understanding, so that when the children had a chance to go on a mission to their father and help attain peace, they were anxious to help. Exciting adventure, but none of the events are melodramatic; the roles of Grania and Fergus are never overdrawn, although they are brave and capable. The author has made her characters time-

less and created a vivid picture of the times.

Ad Polland, Madeleine A. Fingal's Quest; illus. by W. T. Mars. Doubleday, 1961. 6-8 191p. (Clarion Books) \$1.95.

Set in the sixth century, the story of an orphan who entered monastic training in Ireland and followed Brother Columban to France. Convincing atmosphere, plenty of action, and strong characterization, but the story has an aspect that will lessen appeal for some readers: both Brother Columban and the Abbot Comgall perform miracles. The series is intended by the publishers to feature "exciting events in Catholic world history."

Ad Renick, Marion (Lewis). Boy at Bat; Paul Galdone drew the pictures. Scribner, 2-4 1961. 30p. \$2.95.

The story of a small boy who gets a baseball and mitt as a present, and who goes off hopefully to get into the nearest game. Mark gets his chance to play when another boy drops out of the game; unfortunately the other boy tosses Mark's mitt into a tree and Mark, stuck, has to be rescued by firemen. But after all this he considers himself a ball player and demands that his family now address him as Lefty. A modest story, mildly humorous but over-extended.

R Sasek, Miroslav. This Is Edinburgh. Macmillan, 1961. 60p. illus. \$3. 3-6

One of the best in an enchanting series, and like Mr. Sasek's other books about great cities, a book that will also delight older children and adults. The oversize format is perfectly suited to the illustrative technique, the illustrations are beautiful, and the book gives a remarkable impression of the individual quality of the city. It also gives a good deal of information in a most attractive and assimilable form.

R Schlein, Miriam. Laurie's New Brother; pictures by Elizabeth Donald. Abelard-3-5 Schuman, 1961. 40p. \$2.75. yrs.

A very pleasant and unobtrusive picture book about a small girl's adjustment to a new baby. Laurie wanted to be a baby, too, when she saw all the attention her brother got . . . she wanted to be around her mother all the time . . . and she wished the baby would go away. But time passed . . . Laurie was bored being around the house all the time . . . and she felt useful, helping with the baby . . . and she found there were things she could do for which baby John was too small. So she decided she was glad the baby was staying, but that she had her own life to lead. Many of the illustrations are distractingly busy, and in some instances the print is difficult to see against a colored background, but these weaknesses are less important than they would be in a book for independent reading. The value in the book is in the matter-of-fact way in which the adjustment is handled: no sentimentality, and no dramatic reversal of feeling.

Ad Schrank, Joseph. The Puppy in the Pet Shop Window; illus. by Meg Wohlberg. 5-7 Lothrop, 1961. 47p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net. yrs.

A book to read aloud, about a small girl and a small dog who met, were separated, and found each other again—in fact, a variant on boy-meets-girl. Made entertaining by the author's easy style, and attractively illustrated. A small puppy was so shy he seldom drew the attention of people looking in the window of the pet shop; one day a quiet little girl came along. They looked at each other, and loved. To earn money to buy the puppy, the little girl signed up for a television quiz show, but just as she was about to go on, found her dog had been sold. Disconsolate, she didn't try very hard; but she won a consolation prize . . . and it was her own puppy. A pat ending that weakens the story even though it has the satisfaction of a dream come true.

M Shacklett, Juanita Purvis. Timmy's Team; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Friend-
2-3 ship Press, 1961. 126p. \$2.95.

A rather dull story about the minor tribulations of a small boy whose father, a minister, has just been moved. Timmy's dog disappears, he is bullied by a tough boy who calls him "Preacher's kid" and "Sissy"; on the other hand, he meets two very nice boys (good as gold) who help him in all his projects. The dog is found, the bully won over, and the new Mexican neighbors welcomed to the church community. Purposive and slightly sanctimonious.

Ad Shannon, Terry. About Food and Where it Comes From; illus. by Charles Pay-
3-4 zant. Melmont, 1961. 31p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

Brief descriptions of the processes used in harvesting and manufacturing plant foods or processing meats, fish, and dairy products. The thirteen foods discussed are eggs, milk, butter, cheese, meat, bread, sugar, chocolate, coffee, tea, rice, fish, and salt; each topic is accorded one or two pages. Some of the illustrations are quite informative, others merely ornamental. The text is succinct, but necessarily superficial in coverage; for the most part, it is adequate introductory material, but there are places in the text where noticeable omissions occur to the reader. For example, cheese is discussed in only two paragraphs, and there is no explanation of what makes one kind of cheese rather than another. The brevity of treatment indicates the book may be best used as introductory material that will raise questions; it can also be used by the teacher for supplementing classroom discussion at the second grade level.

M Sherman, Nancy. Gwendolyn the Miracle Hen; illus. by Edward Sorel. Golden
4-6 Press, 1961. 26p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.99 net.
yrs.

A read-aloud picture book with rhyming text, illustrated with attractive drawings in a detailed and ornamented style and somewhat muted colors. Threatened by Mr. Meany with foreclosure, Farmer Brown despaired, but he was saved by Gwendolyn. She laid (custom-laid) colored eggs with beautiful designs and became famous; Mr. Meany insisted on taking G. in lieu of the farm; G. went back to laying white eggs and was tossed out, returned to Farmer Brown, and they lived happily ever after. Basically a worn theme and much sustained here by the intricate pictures of the miracle eggs; the rhyme is fairly smooth, with all humor in the nonsense situation rather than in the writing itself.

Ad Shuttlesworth, Dorothy Edwards. The Story of Horses; illus. by Matthew Kalmen-
4-7 off. Garden City, 1960. 56p. \$2.95.

An oversize book, with illustrations that are adequate for purposes of identification but mediocre in technique. Not as interestingly written as is Henry's Album of Horses (Rand, 1951) but with a prefatory section on the evolution of the horse, and with an index. Also practical is the picture that indicates the anatomically descriptive terms used of the various parts. There is little in the book that cannot be found in other books on the topic or in encyclopedia articles, and the small and solid print is a handicap, but the subject interest indicates probable usefulness.

R Snyder, Louis L. The War; A Concise History 1939-1945. Messner, 1960. 579p.
9- illus. \$7.95.

Comprehensive, objective, and authoritative, a history of World War II that is absorbing and impressive. Prefaced by pages of photographs that are both shocking and moving, the text is divided into sections entitled "The Road to War," "Hitler's Days of Glory," "The Allies on the Defensive," "Turn of the Tide," "Smashing the Axis," "Triumph of the United Nations," and "Epilogue." The index is excellent, maps are provided throughout the text, and the appendices are comprehensive: a list of recommended readings, a listing by year of headline events, a chart giving information about major conferences of the war years.

The text is well-organized and well-written; the book is a good reference source for adults and young people as well as being a stimulating historical report.

R Sports Illustrated Magazine. Sports Illustrated Book of Baseball; by the editors 6- of Sports Illustrated Magazine. Lippincott, 1960. 90p. Illus. \$2.75. "Designed especially for beginners and their instructors" states the jacket blurb, as part of "a complete library of self-teaching books." Yet the book is not for one who is truly a beginner, since the rudiments of the game are not explained. The text comprises five sections, each written by a practicing exponent, on pitching (Sal Maglie), hitting (Roy Sievers), catching (Del Crandall), infielding (Gil McDougald), and outfielding and base running (Richie Ashburn). All of the comments of the players have been interpreted by staff writers of the magazine. There are many helpful suggestions in the book, but it is material for the boy who is already a baseball player or a baseball fan. The illustrations are superb, not only in the way in which they supplement the explanations of the text, but also as art . . . they are precise, clear, vital, and beautiful.

Ad Sprague, Rosemary. Fife and Fandango. Walck, 1961. 244p. \$3.75.
7-10

A historical novel, set in Spain during the years of the Peninsular War. Juanita had just been graduated from the convent school and was preparing for her debut, when the ravages of war took away her home, her guardian, and her fortune. To ensure her safe-conduct, a British officer married Juanita; the two loved each other, but the differences in their background created problems of adjustment that were made more difficult by the strains of the war. Interesting background and good writing style, although not as sustained in pace as the author's previous books. The characters tend, although they do come alive, to stock roles: jealous husband, child bride, blond English widow who is a rival, debonair Irish Don Juan, and the stolid friend, John, who loves Juanita quietly and deeply, never wishing more than her happiness.

M Stambler, Irwin. Find a Career in Aviation. Putnam, 1960. 160p. illus. \$2.75.
7-10

Although much of the material will be useful in vocational guidance, it is not as well-organized or as well written as Daugherty's Wider Than the Sky (Harcourt, 1958), also on the topic of aviation as a career. The first two chapters here are heavy with statistics and read like a commercial brochure. The author covers in competent but routine fashion the types of jobs in aviation, the pay, the training, etc. Very little space is devoted to the opportunities for women, which is unfortunate, since there is great interest in the career of stewardess for many girls in high school. Perhaps the most valuable feature of the book is the information it gives about scholarship programs, about where courses are offered, and about activities and reading matter that will help prepare for a career in aviation. An index is appended.

Ad Stuart, Jesse. The Rightful Owner; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Whittlesey 4-6 House, 1960. 111p. \$2.50.

Mike knew that the foxhound was lost, and with his father's help he trapped the dog and brought him home. Slowly Speckles learned to love his new master, and Mike loved his dog; when the rightful owner, who had been hunting his valuable hound, turned up, Mike accepted the fact Speckles must be given up and he accepted gratefully the offer of a pup as a reward for his loving care of Speckles. A simple story, with good family relationships, but slow in pace and with rather stolid conversation, almost all of it about the dog.

R Tavo, Gus. The Buffalo Are Running; illus. by E. F. Miller. Knopf, 1960. 215p. 6-8 \$3.

A good adventure story about a boy who lives for a year with a tribe of Sioux; the plot

is not highly original, but the writing has suspense and excitement, treatment of the Indians is sympathetic, and the descriptions of Indian life interesting. David, who has helped save the life of a Sioux boy, runs away from the wagon train when the leader mistreats him; he is taken in and adopted by the Sioux as a son. When, a year later, David's uncle appears and tells his nephew they are going to settle nearby and that he will not have to give up the adoptive family he has come to love, David is completely happy.

M Waller, Leslie. Our Flag; illus. by Shannon Stirnweis. Holt, 1960. 46p. \$2.50.
2-3

Describing first some of the flags used in this country before there was a national flag, the author tells of the origin of our flag and of the changes made up to the present day. Some historical highlights are given in the process, and this information tends to weaken the book, since much of it is only peripheral to the topic and, if viewed as an historic survey, it is superficial. Rules for using the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance are appended. Illustrations are distracting and the writing style is awkward.

Ad Walton, Elizabeth Cheatham. Treasure in the Sand; illus. by Jo Polseno.
4-6 Lothrop, 1960. 192p. \$2.95.

Jill found an old sword buried in the sand near her home on the same day she made a new friend. Together she and Mike took the sword to an antique dealer, who tried to claim it was his own—so they knew it had some value. Jill wanted money so she could give a nice present to her mother, who was ill . . . but it turned out her mother really wanted the sword itself. Jill realized that in trying to do something helpful, she'd experienced one of the satisfactions of growing up. There are some minor weaknesses in the story: being locked in an old lighthouse, for example, is an episode that has little to do with the story line: Jill could have met Mike or found the sword in a less dramatic way; Mike's family are florid characters, gypsies on a house boat. However, the writing style is good, and family relationships are sound and realistic.

R Weiss, Harvey. Pencil, Pen and Brush; Drawings for Beginners. Scott, 1961.
6- 63p. illus. \$3.50.

An excellent book for beginners, clearly illustrated and with a text that balances nicely between informality and the dry bones of step-by-step instruction. The six sections of the book discuss drawing animals, the figure, heads, landscapes, scenes, and drawing experimentally. Mr. Weiss describes such facets of drawing as perspective, contrast, texture, and exaggeration. One of the most valuable aspects of the author's approach is a tone of encouragement, and another is his repeated observation that he is offering guidance and suggestions—he is not making flat statements about results, only about techniques.

NR Wersba, Barbara. The Boy Who Loved the Sea; illus. by Margot Tomes.

K-2 Coward-McCann, 1961. 30p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.

For reading aloud, a fanciful story about a boy who felt the call of the sea he had never seen. He left home and rode to the shore with an old man, swam out and down into the sea; the sea was beautiful, but the fish ignored him and he had nobody with whom to play. So he went back home and found he loved the land as well as the sea. Precious writing and a vocabulary that is difficult and sophisticated. The book has no humor, and it is difficult to see where its audience lies.

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

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